



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Pest Detection and Management Programs – Program Update

Program: Huanglongbing (HLB – Citrus Greening) Date: February 8, 2006

HLB was first discovered in late August 2005 in South Florida by a Florida CAPS – SITC team conducting a Hot Zone survey at an Asian farm growing exotic tropical fruits. As a result of this detection a unified incident command was established in Miami and operated from September 13th to October 14th, 2005. During that time period, 63 State and Federal employees conducted residential and commercial citrus grove surveys in seven southeast Florida counties. There were a total of 2,328 properties surveyed covering a total of 454 square mile sections. Additionally, out of 1,361 HLB samples taken, 179 positive trees were confirmed on 156 properties in 80 square mile sections in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Hendry, Martin, and St. Lucie Counties. During this time period, the FDACS-DPI Citrus Tree Survey Team performed inspections in commercial pummelo groves throughout the state. These inspections encompassed 47 groves totaling 21,345 acres. To date there have been a total of 2,289 HLB samples taken accounting for 548 HLB positive trees on 448 properties in the following Florida counties: Miami-Dade, Monroe, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Hendry, Collier, Sarasota, Highlands, and Desoto. The majority of these HLB positive sites are in residential areas, however, there have been HLB detections made in eight commercial groves in Palm Beach, Martin, Collier, Hendry, and Desoto Counties.

Since the initial detection of HLB, both PPQ and the State of Florida have been working at harmonizing a regulatory response plan including addressing intrastate and interstate movement of HLB and Asian citrus psyllid host material, the development of a State Emergency Rule, a Federal Order, and an Environmental Assessment. Additionally, periodic conference calls with other citrus producing states have been convened to keep them apprised of the HLB situation and on-going program activities in Florida, and to coordinate survey activities in other states.

The initial post was closed at the Miami location late October, 2005. Another HLB unified incident command post has been established in Immokalee Florida, January 23rd to February 17th. A total of 51 PPQ and 13 State employees have reported for duty. HLB surveys will entail residential and commercial citrus groves in a five county area in southwest Florida. A total of 1111 residential properties have been surveyed to date, with 36 high suspect samples being processed. No additional properties have found to be positive. Eight strike teams were deployed in commercial groves primarily in Hendry County. To date, four areas of Hendry were positive, out of 465 sites inspected. An additional 317 sites were inspected in Collier, Glades and Lee Counties.